

What do you need to enroll in HBI's Carpentry trade?

- A commitment to get your GED or high school diploma, if you don't have one. Good math skills and reading are important to learning the trade's basics, operating tools, and to working safely.
- A commitment to get your driver's license if you don't have it. A license is as crucial as a pair of work boots – you need both to get to the job site.
- An eye for detail. Enjoy working with your hands.



What will you learn in the HBI Carpentry trade?

You will learn many of the skills employers in the building industry are looking for, including how to:

- Build walls and forms for concrete
- Lay roofs with plywood and shingles
- Build and set cabinets and counters
- Install doors, windows and siding
- Install roof joists, rafters and trusses
- Lay wood floors
- Operate table saws, power drills, joiners, nail guns

And that's only the beginning!



Is Carpentry for you?

Carpentry is a rewarding career and very much in demand. Without carpenters, homes could not be built or repaired!

Carpentry work can keep you physically active - bending, standing, climbing and kneeling are part of the job. Carpenters work indoors and outdoors, and use heavy or rough materials, sharp tools and power equipment.

Some carpenters will work for one employer for many years. Some may change employers each time they finish a job. Others, alternate between working for an employer and on their own. Carpenters with skills in all aspects of the trade work more steadily because they know how to handle more jobs.



Home Builders Institute

The Workforce Development Arm of the National Association of Home Builders

1201 15th Street, N.W., Sixth Floor

Washington, DC 20005-2800

202/371-0600 • 800/959-0052

www.hbi.org

New American Home® photos generously donated by the National Council of the Housing Industry. New American Home® 2000, The Evans Group, Architect/Custom Homes LLC, Builder.
Many thanks to the HBI students and instructors featured, and to their photographer, Stephen Schaefer.

Build a Career in the Building Industry

with the Home Builders Institute



© James F. Wilson

Carpentry

What is the Home Builders Institute?

The Home Builders Institute (HBI), is the workforce development arm of the 215,000-member National Association of Home Builders (NAHB). For more than 30 years, HBI has helped young people start careers in the building industry.

What is Carpentry?

Carpentry is a craft dating back thousands of years. It is also the largest of all the building trades – in 1996, there were nearly 1 million carpenters in the United States.

As we enter the 21st century, the basics of carpentry have not changed – they are:

- **Layout** – measuring, marking, and arranging the materials inside and outside a structure.
- **Cut and shape** – molding wood or other material into the shape you want using hand or power tools, such as drills and saws.
- **Join** – bringing the material together with nails, screws or adhesives.
- **Check** – a carpenter always checks the work with levels or squares and makes any necessary adjustments.



How long will it take to graduate?



© James F. Wilson

That is up to you. In HBI's carpentry program you learn at your own pace. The average is 12 months. Students wishing to learn more technical skills take more time.

What type of job can you expect as an HBI Carpentry graduate?

As an HBI graduate with entry level skills in carpentry, you are on the road to becoming a contractor or a builder. You may want to start out with an apprenticeship in carpentry or a job as carpenter's helper.

There will be many job possibilities as your carpentry skills will be in great demand by land developers, general contractors and remodelers.

What will be expected of you as an HBI student?

- A real desire to learn the trade and join one of the country's largest industries.
- Have the discipline to handle HBI's hands-on training responsibly and safely.
- Active participation in your training and its work-like requirements, including punctuality and proper behavior.
- Respect for your instructors and fellow students at all times.
- To follow the rules and respect the tools provided for your training.

Your Carpentry Career Choice Ladder!

As you expand your skills, so do your choices and opportunities in the industry. Here is a ladder of different careers you can aim for as an HBI carpentry graduate. Some require years of experience in the trade and, in some cases, further education.



How much can you earn?

HBI's entry-level carpentry graduates, earn on average, \$8.00 to \$10.00 an hour in their first job after graduation.

Additional training through apprenticeships or on the job training will upgrade your skills and help expand your career options. On average, carpenters earn between \$24,000 and \$55,000 a year.

Source: Personnel Administration Services, Inc.